

St. Dominic's Nursery Class and Wrap Around Care Day Care of Children

St. Dominics RC Primary School
Broich Road
Crieff
PH7 3SB

Telephone: 01764 657 800

Type of inspection:
Unannounced

Completed on:
26 August 2026

Service provided by:
Perth & Kinross Council

Service provider number:
SP2003003370

Service no:
CS2005105100

About the service

St Dominic's Nursery and wrap around care is a day care of children's service provided by Perth and Kinross Council. The service is situated within St Dominic's Primary School in Crieff. The children have access to a large playroom and large outdoor space.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 35 children aged two years to those not yet attending primary school. The wrap around care provides a service to a maximum of 40 children aged 3 to 12 years, at any one time (if attending nursery/primary school). On the day of the inspection there were 63 children in total attending across the service.

About the inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 25 August 2026 between 09:00 and 17:30. This inspection was carried out by two inspectors from the Care Inspectorate.

To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year. To inform our evaluation we:

- spent time with children using the service
- received 11 completed questionnaires from families using the service
- spoke with four families during the inspection
- spoke with five staff and the Manager
- assessed core assurances, including the physical environment
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents

As part of our inspections, we assess core assurances. Core assurances are checks we make to ensure children are safe, the physical environment is well maintained and that a service is operating legally. At the time of this inspection, no improvements were identified relating to core assurances.

Key messages

- Children experienced high-quality play and learning experiences and opportunities which supported curiosity, creativity, independence and sustained engagement.
- Staff used resources and learning spaces effectively to provide engaging play and learning experiences indoors and outdoors.
- -Children were actively involved in decisions about their play and learning, contributing positively to the nursery and wraparound care service.
- Strong self-evaluation and improvement planning improved children's experiences and outcomes, with children and families shaping service development.
- Staff benefited from strong leadership, wellbeing support, training and induction, which helped them meet children's needs.

From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

Leadership	5 - Very Good
Children play and learn	5 - Very Good
Children are supported to achieve	5 - Very Good

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

Leadership 5 - Very Good

We found major strengths in this aspect of the setting's work and identified very few areas for improvement; therefore, we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

Strong leadership across both the nursery and wrap around care service created a positive culture of inclusion, reflection and continuous improvement. Leaders worked closely together to ensure a shared vision and consistent approach across the service. This resulted in positive experiences and outcomes for children. The service's vision, values and aims were clearly reflected in daily practice. Leaders had reviewed these alongside children, families and staff to ensure they remained meaningful and relevant to the current community. Across both the nursery and wrap around care service, children experienced an inclusive and nurturing environment. This enabled children to be confident, independent and respectful of others.

Leaders had established effective self-evaluation and quality assurance processes which focused on improving outcomes for children. Staff across the nursery and wrap around care service were actively involved in reflective practice and could clearly explain how evaluation activities influenced developments within the service.

A range of approaches, including consultations, observations of practice and feedback from families, children and staff, were used to identify strengths and areas for improvement. One family told us "I'm happy to give feedback and I know I have a relationship with the nursery staff that I can be involved." As a result, all children benefited from a service which continually reflected on its practice to improve outcomes for children and families.

A particular strength was the collaborative approach between leaders and staff across both parts of the service. Regular professional dialogue and joint working supported consistency of practice and a shared understanding of improvement priorities. We saw evidence of peer monitoring and professional observations which provided constructive feedback and identified clear next steps for staff development. This contributed to a culture where staff were empowered to learn from one another and continuously enhance outcomes for children.

The service were committed to ensuring children's views were listened to and used to inform decision. Children in the nursery were provided with regular opportunities to share their opinions in a variety of ways for example through mind maps, surveys and discussions. Within the Wrap Around Care children took part in questionnaires and feedback activities. This ensured that change was informed by the views and experiences of those using the service.

During the recruitment of a new staff member, children attending the service were given the opportunity to complete a questionnaire to gather their views on the qualities and attributes they felt were important. Children identified that they wanted staff who were fun, kind, approachable and good listeners. Their feedback was carefully considered as part of the recruitment process, demonstrating that children's views were valued and had a meaningful influence on decisions affecting their care and experiences.

Practice across the service supported children's rights to participate and be listened to, while promoting a culture of inclusion and respect. As a result, children benefited from a service that continually reflected on and improved. This helped to achieve better outcomes for children and their families.

Children play and learn 5 - Very Good

We found major strengths in this aspect of the setting's work and identified very few areas for improvement; therefore, we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

Children experienced high-quality play and learning which promoted curiosity, creativity and confidence. Children were motivated learners who demonstrated a strong sense of ownership over their experiences. Staff created a stimulating environment where children were highly engaged, able to follow their interests and make meaningful choices about their learning. Younger children benefited from a soft start which provided a calm and nurturing beginning to their day. Staff responded sensitively to children's interests by using familiar songs, stories and resources linked to their preferences. Older children demonstrated high levels of involvement across experiences including construction, art with loose parts and imaginative play. Children attending the wrap around care service accessed a variety of creative activities, science investigations and imaginative play experiences. This meant they remained engaged and motivated throughout their time in the service.

The high-quality outdoor environment included a sandpit, shelters, climbing opportunities and a wide range of loose parts. Children moved between indoor and outdoor spaces, allowing them to pursue their interests and lead their own play. Open-ended experiences encouraged creativity and exploration and appropriate risk-taking. The wrap around care service had access to two-wheeled bikes, skateboards and adventurous play experiences. This promoted children's physical development, challenge and enjoyment. Children benefited from forest school experiences which enriched their learning and wellbeing. Through exploring the natural environment, they developed resilience, problem-solving skills and an understanding of risk management. One family told us, "My son attends the forest school and absolutely loves it; he is always coming back telling us that he was building dens, climbing and digging." This helped children develop a strong connection with nature and supported meaningful learning.

The service has strong connections within their community and have developed effective partnerships with the local library, shops and sheltered housing. The wrap around care service supported children to socialise and build relationships with children from other schools and settings. This promoted citizenship and social responsibility allowing children to develop confidence and a strong sense of belonging within their community.

Staff knew children well and consistently interacted in respectful and responsive ways. They worked alongside children in learning, valuing their ideas and extending thinking through open-ended questioning and prompts such as "I wonder". Staff adapted their communication to meet individual needs through the use of Makaton and visual supports, ensuring all children could participate meaningfully. This meant children were confident communicators who were respected and valued.

Staff used observations and their detailed knowledge of children to plan meaningful experiences. Floor books demonstrated how children's views influenced planning and the development of experiences. Assessment information was used effectively to inform responsive planning. This ensured experiences remained relevant, engaging and tailored to children's interests and developmental needs.

Children were actively involved in setting and reviewing learning targets and next steps and could talk about their achievements. This helped children take ownership of their learning and supported continued progress. This demonstrated the service's commitment to listening to children and using their feedback to inform future planning.

Children are supported to achieve 5 - Very Good

We found major strengths in this aspect of the setting's work and identified very few areas for improvement; therefore, we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

Children experienced sensitive and responsive care across all areas of the service. Staff knew children well and were attuned to their interests, preferences, strengths, and needs. Interactions were warm, nurturing and respectful. Children were confidently seeking reassurance and comfort from staff. Strong, trusting relationships helped children feel safe, secure and valued.

Staff demonstrated a good understanding of the importance of transitions and tailored these to meet individual needs. Information gathered about children's experiences, interests and support needs prior to starting was used effectively to plan personalised transition arrangements. Flexible approaches enabled children to settle at their own pace, develop secure attachments and engage confidently in experiences.

Staff consistently promoted children's rights, dignity and choice throughout daily experiences. Children demonstrated an understanding of their rights and spoke confidently about their right to a home, food, and a name. They took pride in contributing to the life of the service through a range of responsibilities, including snack, library and recycling helper roles. This supported children to develop responsibility and a sense of belonging.

Children experienced nurturing mealtime experiences. Staff supported choice-making, social skills and confidence. Across the service, children demonstrated independence in serving food, using utensils and tidying away. During lunch in the older area children reached to adults for comfort and took part in discussions about their likes and dislikes. The youngest children experienced enjoyment and appropriate support from staff. At snack in the wraparound care provision, there was genuine warmth and laughter between staff and children. Across the service staff created a relaxed and inclusive atmosphere where children experienced a strong sense of emotional security.

Staff knew their role in keeping children safe and used current guidance effectively to inform risk assessment and safety management. Children were meaningfully involved in discussions about safety and demonstrated an awareness of potential risks within their environment. As a result, they were developing resilience and the skills needed to manage risk appropriately.

Children were supported well through individualised care that responded effectively to their needs. Staff worked collaboratively with families and partner agencies to ensure consistent and coordinated support across the service. Children benefited from approaches that enabled them to make progress and participate fully. Strong partnership working between the nursery, wraparound care provision, schools and external professionals promoted positive outcomes and continuity of care. One family described a key strength of the service as its support for "parents with children that need extra help"

Staff placed families at the heart of their practice and worked in partnership with them to support children. Strong relationships, effective communication and a shared understanding of children's needs contributed to high-quality, responsive care. Staff worked proactively to reduce barriers to participation and ensure families felt valued, and included. One family told us, "The service is so welcoming and it feels like one big family. All of the staff are amazing and dedicated to making positive changes for each child while keeping it fun and exciting." This meant children experienced consistency between home and the service, enhancing their wellbeing and progress.

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.scot.

Detailed evaluations

Leadership	5 - Very Good
Leadership and management of staff and resources	5 - Very Good
Children play and learn	5 - Very Good
Playing, learning and developing	5 - Very Good
Children are supported to achieve	5 - Very Good
Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good

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